

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP99/08289 filed October 30, 1999**

wherein R¹C(O) represents an aliphatic acyl group, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of CH₂CH₂O, CHCH₃CH₂O and CH₂CHCH₃O, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R² represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.--

--15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein R¹C(O) represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms, each AlkO represents a CH₂CH₂O, R² represents a methyl group, and n is a number of from 5 to 15.--

--16. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid and an alkylene oxide in the presence of calcined hydrotalcite.--

--17. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.--

--18. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof.--

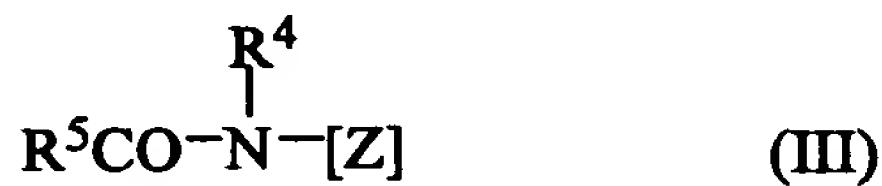
--19. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula (II):



wherein R³ represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, each G independently represents a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number of from 1 to 10.--

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--20. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises a fatty acid-N-alkyl polyhydroxy alkylamide of the general formula (III):



wherein R^5CO represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms, R^4 represents an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and $[\text{Z}]$ represents a linear or branched polyhydroxyalkyl group having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms and from 3 to 10 hydroxyl groups.--

--21. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises a fatty alcohol poly(alkylene)glycol ether of the general formula (V):



wherein R^6 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, each MO independently represents an alkoxide selected from the group consisting of propylene oxide and butylene oxide, p is a number of from 1 to 15 and m is a number of from 0 to 10.--

--22. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises a fatty alcohol polyalkylene glycol ether of the general formula (VI):



wherein R^7 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, r is a number of from 1 to 10 and q is a number of from 0 to 15.--

--23. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the general formula (VII):



wherein R^8 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 4 to 18 carbon atoms, each R^9 independently represents a hydrogen or a methyl or ethyl group, each R^{10} independently represents an alkyl group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number of from 0 to 10, y is a number of from 1 to 30 and z is the number 1.--

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--24. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester and the additional nonionic surfactant are present in the rinse agent in a ratio by weight of from 10:90 to 80:20.--

--25. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.--

--26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.--

--27. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.--

--28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.--

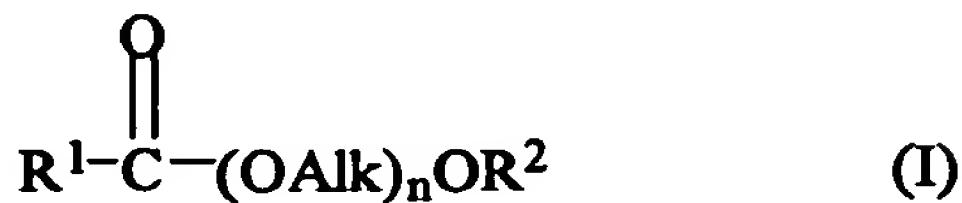
--29. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.--

--30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.--

--31. (New) A rinsing agent comprising:

(a) an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I):

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wherein $\text{R}^1\text{C(O)}$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, $\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{O}$, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.--

--32. (New) The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof.--

--33. (New) The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising a solubilizer.--

--34. (New) The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.--

--35. (New) The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.--

--36. (New) The rinsing agent according to claim 32, further comprising a solubilizer, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, and wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.--

Please cancel claims 1-13, without prejudice.